

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01877 041545Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7444

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1877

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1-2

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: QASMIYA BRIDGE

REF: JERUSALEM 0966

1. WE AGREE THAT JOINT UNIFIL-PLO OPERATIONS ARE BAD IDEA. ONE OF PROBLEMS WITH TYRE, OF COURSE, IS THAT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS AND UNIFIL ARE THROWN TOGETHER AND, GIVEN PALESTINIAN CONTROL OVER THAT TOWN, UNIFIL IS LIKELY TO FIND ITSELF DEPENDENT ON PLO IN SOME RESPECTS. (FATAH, FOR INSTANCE, IS GUARDING BARRACKS IN WHICH FRENCH QUARTERED) FOR THAT REASON, PUTTING HEADQUARTERS AT ZAHRANI MAY MAKE MORE SENSE. IT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE UNIFIL TO KEEP COAST ROAD OPEN, WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN LONG RUN TO REASSERTION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.

2. WHETHER THIS BALANCES OFF IN THE LONG RUN THE BENEFITS OF A LARGE UNIFIL PRESENCE IN TYRE WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHOULDER PALESTINIANS OUT OF THE PORT (AND MIGHT NOT) IS HARD FOR US TO SAY. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT SIILASVUO CONCENTRATE ON TRYING TO GET LEBANESE ARMY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR TYRE.

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3. WE ARE PUZZLED BY THIRD SENTENCE IN PARA 5 REFTTEL, WHICH SPEAKS OF LEAVING QASMIYAH BRIDGE AS NO-MAN'S LAND WHILE USING LAND ROUTE FROM TYRE TO ZAHRANI AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ON REFLECTION, WE ASSUME THIS MEANS SIMPLY IGNORING PALESTINIAN CONTROL OF BRIDGE. WE ASSUME JERUSALEM IS AWARE THAT LAND ROUTE PASSES OVER THAT BRIDGE. OR PERHAPS

"MUCH" SHOULD HAVE BEEN "LITTLE".

PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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